

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NEAE-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 L-03

PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 EA-11 EUR-25

AF-10 RSR-01 /107 W

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P 311220Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4479

S E C R E T KABUL 5685

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AF

SUBJECT: ORIGINS OF THE COUP - DAUD'S POSITION VISA-VIS

CENTRAL COMMITTEE

1. ALTHOUGH INFORMATION STILL FRAGMENTARY AND DIFFICULT TO ASSESS, CERTAIN DATA FROM SOURCES WHICH WE HAVE FOUND KNOWLEDGEABLE AND USEFUL PRESENT FOLLOWING PICTURE AS MOST LIKELY:

A) THE OFFICERS WHO FINALLY ENGINEERED COUP HAD PLANNED IT TO TAKE PLACE IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER WHEN KING NORMALLY WENT TO EUROPE. PLOT WAS DISCOVERED BY OR REPORTED TO ABDUL WALI WHO INFORMED KING JUST PRIOR TO LATTER'S DEPARTURE. KING DISMISSED REPORT AS SOMETHING HE "HAD HEARD TEN TIMES ALREADY" BUT LATER TOOK PRECAUTION OF SENDING ABDUL WALI BACK TO KABUL TO KEEP EYE ON SITUATION (IN WHICH HE FAILED).

B) MEANWHILE OFFICERS REALIZED PLOT DISCOVERED AND APPROACHED DAUD SAYING IT WAS NOW OR NEVER. DAUD FIRST HESITATED, THEN TOOK LEAD.

2. WHILE WE CANNOT VOUCH FOR ACCURACY OF ABOVE IT WOULD EXPLAIN:

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A) WHY WELL-PLANNED AND EXECUTED COUP HAS BEEN FOLLOWED BY APPARENT VACUUM POLITICAL FOLLOW UP;

B) WHY DAUD'S BROTHER NORMALLY PRIVY TO DAUD'S THOUGHTS REPORTEDLY SWORE ON KORAN TO EX-QUEEN HE HAD KNOWN NOTHING OF COUP (AND NAIM'S SON WAS DRIVING AROUND COUP NIGHT AND GOT INTO DIFFICULTIES);

C) WHY THERE IS EVIDENCE OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OFFICERS WHO APPARENTLY CARRIED OUT COUP AND DAUD (AS WELL AS AMONG OFFICERS THEMSELVES);

D) WHY DAUD SEEMS TO HAVE A GREATER POSITION OF PERSONAL STRENGTH THAN ONE MIGHT ASSUME IF OFFICERS HAD MERELY WANTED FIGUREHEAD (WHICH WE JUDGE CONTRARY TO DAUD'S CHARACTER);

E) UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT DECISION EVACUATE ROYAL FAMILY (OTHER THAN ABDUL AND SHAH WALI) WAS DAUD'S ALONE, TAKEN WITHOUT CONSULTATION CENTRAL COMMITTEE IN WHICH THERE WAS SOME OPPOSITION; AND

F) REPORT THAT LYBIAN DELEGATION (SEPTTEL) WANTED TO MEET WITH CENTRAL COMMITTEE BUT ALLOWED TO SEE DAUD ONLY. (IF TRUE, NOT KNOWN WHETHER THIS OPPOSED IN CENTRAL COMMITTEE.)

3. PRELIMINARY AND CURRENT IMPRESSION IS DAUD'S POSITION GRADUALLY STRENGTHENING VIS-A-VIS CENTRAL COMMITTEE. WHEN REQUESTS FOR ACTION ARE PASSED TO PRESIDENT, DECISION COMES BACK TOO FAST TO HAVE BEEN SUBJECT OF COMMITTEE ACTION. STILL WE CANNOT AS YET BE SURE AND ANNOUNCEMENT NEW GOVERNMENT, INFORMALLY PROMISED FOR THIS WEEK, SHOULD GIVE US FURTHER CLUES.  
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